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United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY.

Meat Inspection Rulings--1 A.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,

Washington, D. C., October 29, 1906.

The following rulings under the Meat Inspection Law and the Regulations made thereunder are announced by the Department of Agriculture.

TRANSPORTATION.

1. No shipment of meat or meat food product shall be accepted for transportation in interstate commerce by any carrier until the carrier has received from the shipper a certificate in one of the forms prescribed in the regulations.

2. When it is desired to divert a shipment of inspected and marked meat or meat food product from the original destination, such diversion may be made without reinspection if a new certificate showing the changed destination be given to the carrier by the owner or shipper, who may or may not be the original shipper. In case of wreck or other extraordinary emergency, the carrier may divert the shipment without waiting for a new certificate, but in all such cases of diversion or reloading full information regarding the same shall be sent promptly to the Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, together with full information regarding the change of cars, etc.

3. The right of the farmer to ship in interstate or foreign commerce the carcasses of animals slaughtered on the farm is a right personal to the farmer, and applies to the shipment of carcasses of such animals in interstate or foreign commerce only when such carcasses are shipped by the farmer or his agent. The carcasses of animals slaughtered by the farmer on the farm, which are shipped by the farmer to a commission man for sale, may be reshipped by the commission man, by signing a farmer's certificate as agent for the original shipper. It is incumbent upon the commission man to know that the carcasses covered by the certificate he issues are those of animals slaughtered by a farmer on the farm, and to have authority to sign for the farmer in making the reshipment. Wholesale dealers, who

are not acting as agents for farmers, but who own carcasses of animals slaughtered by a farmer on the farm, may not reship said carcasses in interstate or foreign commerce.

4. Reshipments of inspected meat and meat food products which are sound and wholesome at the time of reshipment may be made without reinspection, when the meat or meat food products, or the containers thereof, are marked "U. S. inspected and passed," and the meat or meat food products have not been processed, other than by smoking, since they were originally shipped under Regulations 53 or 54. If these conditions do not obtain, reshipments without reinspection can not be made.

5. The transportation of meat or meat food product from one point in a State or Territory to another point in the same State or Territory, when in course of shipment the meat or meat food product is taken through another State or Territory, is interstate commerce, and brings the said transportation within the scope of the meat inspection law and regulations.

CASINGS.

1. Unfilled "casings" shall be regarded as containers and not as meat food products, but when such casings are to be exported to a foreign country which requires a certificate showing that the casings are products of animals which were free from contagious disease at time of slaughter the necessary stamps and a certificate will be issued by the inspector in charge.

LABELS.

1. Labels or stickers, bearing the inspection legend, separate and apart from the trade label, may, under the supervision of a Department employee, be used on inspected and passed meats which are wrapped in paper or cloth or which are placed in pasteboard containers. But no such label or sticker, bearing an inspection legend, can be used in establishments where inspection is not maintained.

2. Products not classed as "meat food products," which are prepared at establishments where inspection is not maintained, and which contain small quantities of meats which have been inspected and passed under the meat inspection law, and no other meats, may bear a label with a personal statement of the manufacturer that the meat contained therein has been inspected and passed at an establishment where inspection is maintained. In each such case, however, the label before being used must be submitted to the Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry for approval.

3. No label will be approved for use after January 1, next, which contains an incorrect or false statement of the weight of the package; or which does not show that the weight, if given, is net or gross.

DEFINITIONS.

1. When the words "meat" or "meat food products" are used in the regulations or rulings of the Secretary of Agriculture they mean meat or meat food products of cattle, sheep, swine, or goats, and do not include meat or meat food products of other animals.

2. Nonedible grease and nonedible tallow, derived from cattle, sheep, swine, or goats, are not considered meat food products. However, when nonedible grease and nonedible tallow are to be exported to a country for which the requirement of a certificate has not been waived, the collectors of customs, under instructions from the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, will require an affidavit from the exporter that the grease and tallow to be exported are nonedible and not intended for food purposes. Carriers in interstate commerce should require a written statement from shippers that the tallow or grease is nonedible, and that it is so marked.

JAMES WILSON,
Secretary.

